

REMARKS

Claims 11-21 are pending. Previously pending claims 11-17 have **NOT** been amended for the reasons set forth hereinafter. This amendment adds new claims 18-21 depending from one of base claims 16 or 17.

In the outstanding Office action, claims 11, 12, 16, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,579,221 to Mun (*Mun*). Claims 13-15 are objected to as depending on rejected claims, but are otherwise allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have not re-written claims 13-15 because their base claims are patentable over *Mun* for the reasons set forth below.

In independent claims 11, 16, and 17, a power line is monitored for detecting problems or anomalies (e.g., unacceptable power line activity) in signals superimposed on the power line. *Mun* neither discloses nor suggests this feature.

In referring to claim 11, the Office action contends a power line controller module 146 in *Mun* is a power line monitor as claimed. To support this contention, the Office action cites to *Mun*'s specification beginning at column 10.

Then, power line controller PLC interface 142 outputs the amplitude shift key ASK modulated signal to alternating current AC power source line 144. Power line controller PLC modules 146 and 146n+1, which are connected in parallel to alternating current AC power source line 144, receive the amplitude shift key ASK modulated signal from alternating current AC power source line 144.

*Mun*, col. 10, line 64 – col. 11, line 3. This text from *Mun* describes transmitting and receiving signals over a power line, but it does **NOT** describe monitoring those signals, which is required by applicants' claims. *Mun* sends signals on the power line between the transmitting/receiving circuit and the power line controller modules 146, which control the supply of power to loads serviced by the power lines. Although both the transmitting/receiving circuit and the power line controller module communicate by sending and receiving signals on the power line, they do **NOT** monitor those signals for anomalies as recited by applicants' claims.

When referring to claims 16 and 17, the Office action cites column 5 of *Mun*, apparently relying on sensors 100 to be the power line monitors of the claims.

When the circuit shown in FIG. 3 operates, a radio frequency RF transmitter 102 scans outputs of one or more sensors (generically depicted as reference numeral 100) and determines whether an abnormal signal is generated from any of the sensors. If an abnormal signal (i.e. a security signal) is generated from any one of the sensors, a radio frequency RF transmitter 102 responds to the security signal by generating data having a system code, a channel code, and a secret code indicative of the abnormal signal, and modulating the data to thereby transmit the modulated data as radio signals.

*Mun*, col. 5, lines 41-52. None of the sensors 100 monitor a power line. The sensors monitor conditions for detecting events such as fires, gas leaks and home break-ins. *Mun*, col. 6, line 38. Fig. 3 in *Mun* illustrates the sensors transmitting information through conventional small signal wiring or through RF transmission. Applicants' specification discloses sensors similar to those in *Mun* that also do not employ the power lines to transmit signals - - e.g., a water sensor at page 7 of the specification sends signals when a hot water heater bursts or leaks. Sensors such as this one in applicants' specification and the ones disclosed in *Mun* are completely unrelated to monitoring the power line as required by applicants' claims.

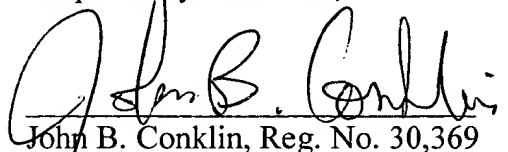
In re Appln. of Arora et al.  
Serial No. 09/641,556

CONCLUSION

All of the applicants' claims require detecting anomalies (claims 16-21) or problems (claims 11-15) in signals superimposed on power lines. *Mun* neither discloses nor suggests such a feature.

In view of this amendment and foregoing remarks, the application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

  
John B. Conklin, Reg. No. 30,369  
One of the Attorneys for Applicants  
LEYDIG, VOIT & MAYER, LTD.  
Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 4900  
180 North Stetson  
Chicago, Illinois 60601-6780  
(312)616-5600 (telephone)  
(312)616-5700 (facsimile)

Date: August 6, 2003